

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16-26, 28-33, 38-45, 47-54, and 56-59-60 are presently active in this case. Claims 10, 14-15, 27, 34-37, 46 and 55 were cancelled by a previous amendment. The present Amendment amends Claims 1-2, 4, 8, 13, 25-26, and 32 and adds new Claim 60 without introducing any new matter; and cancels Claim 35 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The outstanding Office Action objected to Claim 35 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c). Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16-26, 28-33, 35, 28-45 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-5, 8-9, 11-13, 16-26, 28-30, 32-33, 35, 38-45, 47-54 and 57-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Suminoe et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,620, hereinafter "*Suminoe*").

In response, Claims 1-2, 4, 8, 13, 25-26, and 32 are herewith amended to clarify the claim language objected to by the outstanding Office Action. For example, Claim 1 is amended to recite "having a first side and an oppositely facing second side, the first side of the dielectric layer in the attachment portion facing in a first direction, the second side of the dielectric layer in the attachment portion facing in a second direction." The expression "generally" has also been replaced by the expression "substantially" in Claims 2 and 13, as suggested by the outstanding Office Action.¹ Dependent Claims 4 and 8 are also amended to clarify the directions. The remaining claims objected to by the outstanding Office Action are amended in a similar manner.

In response to the objection to Claim 35 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), Claim 35 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants respectfully submit that the changes to the claims do not constitute new matter, since the changes are supported by the specification as originally filed, for example in Applicants' Figures 1-2, and at paragraphs [0041]-[0045]. In addition, it is also believed that the changes do not raise any question of new issues. These amendments are submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after Final Rejection permits entry of amendments canceling rejected claims or complying with requirements of form set forth in a previous Office Action. As the present amendment merely cancels rejected Claim 35 and amends Claims 1-2, 4, 8, 13, 25-26, and 32 to respond to the outstanding objections to the claims as suggested in the previous Office Action, it is respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-5, 8-9, 11-13, 16-26, 28-30, 32-33, 35, 38-45, 47-54 and 57-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection and traverse the rejection, as discussed next.

Briefly recapitulating, Applicants' Claim 1 relates to a microelectronic assembly. The microelectronic assembly includes, *inter alia*: a dielectric layer having an attachment portion, the dielectric layer having a first side and an oppositely facing second side, the first side of the dielectric layer in the attachment portion facing in a first direction, the second side of the dielectric layer in the attachment portion facing in a second direction; and a semiconductor chip assembled to the second side of the dielectric layer in the attachment portion, the first side of the dielectric layer defines a boundary of the assembly such that *the entire first side is unobstructed*.

¹ See the outstanding Office Action at page 3, lines 3-4, and lines 15-16.

Accordingly, the first side of the dielectric layer does not have any other element disposed thereon. By having such a structure, the dielectric layer can provide the rigidity and stability for the microelectronic assembly. This also enables the microelectronic assembly to have a lower profile as a support plate or similar device.

In contrast, the cited passages of *Suminoe* fail to teach that a side of the dielectric layer forming the first side of the attachment portion defines a boundary of the assembly such that the entire first side of the dielectric layer is unobstructed. As shown in *Suminoe's* Figure 8, a radiation plate 37 is mounted on top of the insulation tape 2. In *Suminoe's* embodiments shown with reference to Figures 1, 3-4, 7-8, 10e, 11e, 15-16, and 22, the dielectric layer 2 is obstructed with elements such as radiation plates 7, 17, and 27, and adhesive 8. Accordingly, *Suminoe* fails to teach that **a side of the dielectric layer** defines a boundary of the assembly such that the entire first side of **the dielectric layer is unobstructed**, as required by independent Claims 1 and 25. Independent Claim 47 recites "the first side of the continuous sheet being clear of other elements" and this feature is also not taught by the cited passages of *Suminoe*.

Therefore, the cited passages of the applied reference fails to teach every feature recited in Applicants' claims, so that Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16-26, 28-33, 38-45, 47-54, and 56-59 are believed to be patentably distinct over *Suminoe*. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of, the rejection based on *Suminoe*. New Claim 60 relates to a stackable microelectronic component, and recites *inter alia* first terminal structures carried by the offset portion of the dielectric layer for connecting the semiconductor chip with external circuitry being above the first

surface of the dielectric layer at the offset portion.² Such feature cannot be taught by *Suminoe* since *Suminoe*'s radiation plates 7, 17 and 27 mounted on top of dielectric layer 2 would prevent this feature.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicants' representative at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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² Finds non-limiting support in Applicants' specification as originally filed, for example with reference to Figs. 10-11, ¶ [0052]-[0053].